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RUSSIA INKS DEAL ON VACCINE DOSES WITH DR REDDY'S LABS

Russia's sovereign wealth fund RDIF, which is leading the vaccine project, will supply 10 crore doses to Dr Reddy's

REGULATORY APPROVAL AWAITED

Deliveries could begin in late 2020 subject to completion of successful trials and registration of the vaccine by regulatory authorities, according to a joint statement by RDIF and Dr Reddy's. "Phase I and II clinical trials have shown promising results. We will be conducting Phase III trials in India," said G V Prasad, co-chairman and MD, Dr Reddy's Labs | P9

ALL AMERICANS TO GET FREE VACCINE SHOT

- Meanwhile, the US outlined a sweeping plan on Wednesday to make vaccines for Covid-19 available for free to all Americans
- The Pentagon is involved with the distribution of vaccines, but civilian health workers will be the ones giving shots
- Vaccines to be shipped within 24 hrs of FDA's emergency nod | P12

40,000
NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS UNDERGOING PHASE III TRIALS IN RUSSIA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

No plan to amend Official Languages Act: Centre

SANA SHAKIL @ New Delhi

THERE is no proposal to amend the Official Languages Act to include Scheduled languages other than English and Hindi as its official languages, the Centre told the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai stated this while replying to a question posed by Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) founder Vaiko. The Rajya Sabha member wanted to know whether there was a proposal to amend the Act to include Scheduled languages, other than Hindi and English, as its official languages, as suggested by the apex court.

When asked how the people in the South and the Northeast, especially villagers, could understand the official communications, rules and regulations published by government, Rai said that there is provision of three-language formula (Hindi, English and Regional Language) as per Point No. 3 of Official Language Resolution, 1968, which has been prepared in consultation with state governments.

The Official Languages Act should also be amended to include regional language. This Act was framed long ago. A situation has now arisen where regional language should be given priority and preference

Manu Baligar, president, Kannada Sahitya Parishat

"The order of usage of languages in the name-boards/notice-boards to be displayed for the information of the public by Central Government Offices which are located in non-Hindi speaking areas is to be in the order of (1) Regional Language, (2) Hindi, (3) English," the minister said in a written reply.

While hearing an appeal against the Delhi High Court order in the matter of Draft Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2020, Chief Justice of India S A Bobde had orally remarked that the Central Government should consider amending the Official Languages Act to include Scheduled languages, other than Hindi and English, as official language of the Government of India.

'Recast panel to include people from South'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FORMER Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday urged the Union Government to reconstitute the 16-member expert committee, formed to study Indian culture over the past 12,000 years.

"It is very unfortunate that the expert committee does not have any Kannadigas or South Indians who know Dravidian culture. The committee does not even have a woman member," the former chief minister pointed out. P7

AP GOVT PLANS TO MOVE SC AGAINST HC's STAY

The issue relates to probe in a case against former A-G Dammalapati Srinivas and 12 others in the Amaravati land scam, and gag on the media. P9

EXPRESS READ

'Institution builder' Kapila Vatsyayan dies

New Delhi: Arts connoisseur and scholar Kapila Vatsyayan died on Wednesday, aged 92. She was founding director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts | P10

Babri demolition case verdict on Sept 30

Lucknow: A special court will deliver judgment on September 30 in the Babri Masjid case, ruling if L K Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi were involved in razing the mosque in 1992 | P10

15 FIGURE IN DELHI RIOTS CHARGESHEET

Police claim the accused used WhatsApp group to stoke violence

GAYATHRI MANI @ New Delhi

THE Delhi Police on Wednesday filed a voluminous chargesheet in a local court against 15 accused for their alleged role in the larger conspiracy in the North-East Delhi riots in February last that left over 50 people dead. Bunched in 11 volumes, the chargesheet runs into 17,000 pages.

The 15 accused named in the chargesheet are former Aam Aadmi Party councillor Tahir Hussain, Abdul Khalid Saifi, Isharat Jahan, Meeran Haider, Gullisha, Safoora Zargar, Shifa Ur Rehman, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Shadab Ahmed, Tasleem Ahmed, Saleem Malik, Mohamaad Saleem Khan, Athar Khan and Pinjra Tod founder members Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita.

They are part of the 21 who are already under arrest under the Unlawful Activities (Preventions) Act (UAPA) and various sections of Indian Penal Code such as criminal conspiracy, attempt to murder, sedition, promoting enmity, rioting and causing damage to public property.

The six others, including Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Parvez Ahmad and Faizan, are expected to figure in a supplementary chargesheet in the coming days.

HC: Go to trial court for bail

The Delhi High Court asked arrested Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha, who is among the 15 people chargesheeted on Wednesday in the Delhi riots case, to approach the trial court for bail

"It took 195 days to complete the first phase of investigation. During this period, 747 witnesses were examined and approximately 75 electronic devices seized as part of the investigation," the police said.

This is the first chargesheet on the larger conspiracy behind the riots. The case was handled by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police.

According to sources, Tahir Hussain has been named the key conspirator. All 15, the chargesheet alleges, were guiding their foot soldiers on the violence in the area. It accused them of using a WhatsApp group on the anti-CAA protests to instigate violence in the Jafarabad-Seelampur area.

In all, 751 first information reports (FIRs) were filed in connection with the riots. "Of the total FIRs, 59 were assigned to the SIT constituted in the Crime Branch, 691 were investigated by the district police, and one case registered on March 6 to investigate the larger conspiracy behind the riots was assigned to the Special Cell," the police said.

As part of the probe, 12 pistols, 121 empty cartridges, 92 live cartridges, 61 glass bottles filled with noxious chemicals and an assortment of sharp-edged weapons have been seized so far by the police. In the clash that broke out in the last week of February, at least 53 people died and 583 others were injured. Also, properties were widely damaged in arson attacks during the riots.

MAKE IN INDIA

Chennai may house Apple's 2nd largest manufacturer

BINITA JAISWAL @ Chennai

AFTER Foxconn, Tamil Nadu is all set to attract Apple's second largest contract manufacturer for iPhone, Pegatron.

According to industry sources, the Taiwanese electronics manufacturing company is in talks with the state government to set up a manufacturing facility here.

"We want to attract all major electronics manufacturing companies. Talks are on with different companies, including Pegatron. However, it is too early to say anything on it right now," N Muruganandam, Industry Secretary, Tamil Nadu, told *TNIE*.

Experts pointed out that it will be a win-win deal for Pegatron. Apart from benefits such as subsidy on land lease and capital, the company will have a support ecosystem and apt infrastructure as Foxconn already has a factory at Sriperumbudur near Chennai.

The state government's incentives will be in addition to the ones offered by the Centre, sources said.

Pegatron could not be reached for comments.

Down with Covid, four of BSY's ministers likely to miss session

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

WITH just about five days to go for the start of the legislature session, four ministers in CM B S Yediyurappa's cabinet, including Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai, may skip the sessions, at least for the first few days, as they are undergoing treatment for Covid-19.

Bommai, who tested positive on Wednesday, tweeted that one of the staffers at his residence had tested positive on Tuesday. "I too got tested and was found out to be positive. I have no symptoms. I will be under home quarantine," he stated. Bommai will not be available in the initial days to respond to the Opposition parties which are planning to take on the government on issues such as the DJ Halli violence and the drug racket.

Bommai is the fourth minister to catch the virus in the last one week. On Monday, Urban Development Minister Byrathi Basavaraj had tested positive and the next day, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K Gopalaiah too was diagnosed with Covid. Animal Husbandry minister Prabhu Chavan tested positive last week. P4

BANNED DRUG STILL IN USE KILLS VULTURES

MEERA BHARDWAJ @Bengaluru

A new study finds that drugs used to treat cattle is decimating vulture populations | THANAGURU BALA

EVEN as India celebrated the International Vulture Awareness Day on September 5, the news comes that vulture populations are still declining and there are no significant signs of their recovery in India. A new study released this week says the drug diclofenac, which was banned for causing mass kill-offs of three vulture species, is still being prescribed and is available across medical stores.

The catastrophic decline of critically endangered White rumped, long and slender billed vultures in South Asia was caused by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) diclofenac which was finally banned in 2006. Apart from diclofenac still being used, there are also other unsafe drugs like Aceclofenac, Ketoprofen and Nimesulide becoming more widely used by vets to treat cattle. Tamil Nadu has already taken steps to restrict the usage of such drugs by vets. P7

CYBER CRIME

'Your data is kidnapped, pay ransom!'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Madikeri

SOMETHING was wrong with their server. They couldn't open their folders. This was not the usual 'System error'. Suddenly a message or rather a warning popped up on their computer screen: "Your files can be retrieved, but you have to pay..."

The personnel of 'Sun Micro Tec IT Solutions' company in Kushalnagar then understood that their data had been 'kidnapped' by cyber criminals and they were asked to pay a 'ransom' in the form of an expensive key to unlock their folders.

A complaint in this regard, a first of its kind in Kodagu, has been raised with the district cyber cell.

This is a new reality that haunts the corporate security teams the world over. Credit cards are passé, data has become a bargaining chip for cyber criminals.

The company personnel detected the 'Ransomware.ogdo' virus, which stole all the system data through the server. And the warning message said, "Don't worry, you can return all your files! All your files like pictures, databases, documents and other important (sic) are encrypted with the strongest encryption and unique keys...The only method of recovering files is to purchase decrypt tool and unique key for you (sic) price of private key and decrypt software is $980."

Further, the warning message even offered the company a discount of 50% -- if the company contacted the hacker via email within 72 hours.

CONTINUED ON: P7

Laying of Foundation Stone for
Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Kalaburagi Branch
300 Bedded New Hospital Complex

Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Date: 17.09.2020, Thursday | Time: 09:00 a.m. | Venue: Main Road, Kalaburgi

Dr. K. Sudhakar, Minister of Medical Education and Dr. C.N. Manjunath, Director, SJICR handing over a cheque towards COVID -19 Chief Minister Relief Fund.

Foundation Stone Laying by
Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

In the August Presence of
Sri Govinda M. Karajola — Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for PWD and Social Welfare & Kalaburagi Dist. In-charge Minister
Dr. K. Sudhakar — Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education
Sri B. Sriramulu — Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Backward Classes Welfare

Presided by
Sri Dattatreya C. Patil Revoora — Hon'ble Chairman, Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board and MLA, Kalaburagi South

Chief Guests
Dr. Ajay Singh — Hon'ble Chief Whip, Opposition Party and MLA, Jewargi
Smt. Suvarna Hanamantharaya Malaji — Hon'ble President, Zilla Panchayath Kalaburagi
Dr. Umesh G. Jadhav — Hon'ble Lok Sabha Member Kalaburagi
Sri Bhagawanth Khuba — Hon'ble Lok Sabha Member, Bidar
Dr. Mallikarjuna Kharge — Hon'ble Rajya Sabha Member Kalaburagi
Dr. Basavaraj Patil Sedam — Hon'ble Chairman, Kalyana Karnataka Human Resource, Agriculture and Cultural Association
Sri Rajakumar Patil Telkur — Hon'ble Chairman, NEKRTC and MLA, Sedam

Special Invitees
Sri Priyank Kharge — Hon'ble MLA Chittapur
Sri M.Y. Patil — Hon'ble MLA Afzalpur
Smt. Kaneez Fatima — Hon'ble MLA Kalaburagi North
Sri Basavaraj B. Mattimud — Hon'ble MLA Kalaburagi Rural
Sri Subhash R. Guttedar — Hon'ble MLA Aland
Dr. Avinasha Umesh Jadhava — Hon'ble MLA Chincholi
Sri N.Y. Gopalakrishna — Hon'ble MLA, Kudligi and Governing Council Member, SJICR
Smt. Soumya Reddy — Hon'ble MLA, Jayanagar and Governing Council Member, SJICR
Sri M.V. Veerabhadraiah — Hon'ble MLA, Madhugiri and Governing Council Member, SJICR
Sri Sunil Vallyapure — Hon'ble MLC
Sri B.G. Patil — Hon'ble MLC
Dr. Chandrashekhara Patil — Hon'ble MLC
Dr. Sabanna Talawar — Hon'ble MLC
Sri Shivaraja Sajjana — Hon'ble President, Taluk Panchayath, Kalaburagi
Dr. N.V. Prasad, IAS — Regional Commissioner, Kalaburagi Division and Secretary K.K.R.D. Board, Kalaburagi
Smt. V.V. Jyotsna, IAS — Deputy Commissioner Kalaburagi
Dr. S.T. Yavagal — Hon'ble Governing Council Member, SJICR
Dr. K. Poonesh — Hon'ble Governing Council Member, SJICR
Sri A.C. Shadakshari — Hon'ble Governing Council Member, SJICR

All are Welcome

T.K. Anil Kumar, IAS — Principal Secretary to Govt. Medical Education Department
Chairman and Members, Governing Council — Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bengaluru
Dr. C.N. Manjunath — Director, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bengaluru

To safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of the Country.
Quality, Charity, Subsidy & Humanitarian approach